

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
-----010204 075106 /67

R 281458Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5051
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: LABOR CONVENTION REJECTS AMENDMENTS TO POLITICAL PLATFORM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT ITS FINAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 25,
THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION REJECTED FOUR AMENDMENTS TO ITS
POLITICAL PLATFORM (TEXT IN SEPTTEL). THE FIRST THREE WERE
SUBMITTED BY MOSHE DAYAN AND DEALT WITH ISRAEL'S POSITION
ON THE WEST BANK.

2. THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY DAYAN WAS TO DELETE FROM THE
THIRD SENTENCE UNDER THE HEADING "CONSISTENT STRIVING FOR PEACE"
(PARAGRAPH QQ OF SEPTTEL) THE WORDS: "WITH EACH OF THEM,
AND WITH LEBANON--WITH THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES." DAYAN
PARTICULARLY OPPOSED THE IDEA OF MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS
TO JORDAN. HE ARGUED NOT ONLY AGAINST YEIDLING WEST BANK
TERRITORY BUT AGAINST IMPLICIT RECOGNITION OF JORDAN'S
CLAIM TO THE WEST BANK, NOTING THAT ONLY TWO
COUNTRIES HAD RECOGNIZED JORDAN'S ANNEXATION OF THE
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WEST BANK PRIOR TO 1967. THIS AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED BY
A LARGE MEJORITY.

3. THE SECOND DAYAN AMENDMENT WAS A PROPOSAL TO DELETE
IN "SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" (PARA 17) THE
WORDS "JERUSALEM DISTRICT" AND "THE JORDAN VALLEY" (IN
THE FIRST SENTENCE) AND INSERT: "THE WEST BANK." DAYAN

ARGUED THAT BY MENTIONING JERUSALEM DISTRICT AND THE JORDAN VALLEY, OTHER PLACES IN THE WEST BANK CAN BE REGARDED AS EXCLUDED FROM SETTLEMENT. DAYAN MADE A PASSIONATE APPEAL TO THE CONVENTION DELEGATES "NOT TO PROHIBIT SETTLEMENT IN OTHER PARTS OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA." THIS AMENDMENT RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF 606 DELEGATES WHILE 659 REJECTED IT.

4. DAYAN'S THIRD AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO DELETE THE SECOND SENTENCE IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH ON "SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" BEGINNING WITH THE WORDS "SETTLEMENT IS TO TAKE PLACE...." AND UP TO "DEFENSIBLE PEACE BORDERS." HE ARGUED THAT DEFENSIBLE BORDERS SHOULD NOT BE THE ONLY CRITERIA FOR GOI'S SETTLEMENT POLICY. THIS AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

5. THE FOURTH AMENDMENT WAS SUBMITTED BY YITZHAK NAVON AND READ: "ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A REFUSAL TO ENGAGE IN CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND WHO ACCEPT THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338." THIS PROPOSAL WAS ALSO DEFEATED BY A LARGE MAJORITY.
END UNCLASSIFIED

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: NAVON AGREES WITH THE PLATFORM IN OPPOSING THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE BUT BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO TALK TO THE PLO UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IS A TACTICAL ERROR.

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7. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE REBUFF ADMINISTERED TO DAYAN WILL NOT RESULT IN HIS WALKING OUT OF THE PARTY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS THUS FAR PUBLICLY AVOIDED RULING OUT THIS POSSIBILITY. ONE REPORT SAYS THAT HE HAS AGREED TO BEING INCLUDED IN THE ALIGNMENT KNESSET LIST BUT HOW ACTIVE HE WILL BE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT FELLOW HAWK AND RAFI MEMBER, MK MORDECHAI BEN PORAT, WILL LEAVE THE PARTY FOR THE LIKUD, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OR TWO MKS AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER PARTY MEMBERS.

8. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE VOTE ON DAYAN'S AMENDMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE NARROW DEFEAT OF HIS SECOND PROPOSAL, CUT ACROSS THE RABIN-PERES LINEUP. IN FACT, PERES WAS STRANGELY QUIET DURING THE DEBATE OVER THESE AMENDMENTS AND REPORTEDLY IGNORED URGINGS BY RAFI MEMBERS ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT DAYAN. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS PERES' REALIZATION THAT HIS BASE OF SUPPORT IS NOW MUCH WIDER THAN THE RAFI FACTION AND INCLUDES MANY DOVES.

DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, PARTY MEETINGS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV01426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770069-0332
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977021/aaaaaawt.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3228147
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR CONVENTION REJECTS AMENDMENTS TO POLITICAL PLATFORM
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, LABOR PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009